IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (New): A method for closing an already filled hollow glass body provided with a substantially cylindrical glass filling neck, said filling neck being closed by a melting process once the hollow body has filled, the method comprising:

inserting a glass closing plug in the filling neck to drive out at least part of the air volume located above the filling level of the hollow body, the glass plug including a radially projecting flange provided at a substantially middle portion in a longitudinal direction thereof, whose outer diameter corresponds to the outer diameter of the filling neck and has a circumferentially extending centering bevel on the side facing the filling neck, an area of the glass plug projecting into the filling neck has an outer diameter which corresponds essentially to the inner diameter of the filling neck, and an external portion of the glass plug extends in the longitudinal direction above the flange and has an outer diameter which corresponds essentially to the outer diameter of the filling neck; and

fusing the substantially middle portion of the plug with a top end of the filling neck at a circumference thereof.

Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein the glass plug is thin-walled and hollow and has a wall thickness smaller than a wall thickness of the filling neck.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein the glass plug is thin-walled and hollow and has a thickness identical to the wall thickness of said filling neck.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein the glass plug has a wall thickness corresponding to 50% of the wall thickness of said filling neck.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 9, further comprising applying lettering to an outer surface of a portion of the glass plug inserted into the filling neck.

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein immediately below the flange, the glass plug has a constriction whose outer diameter is smaller than the outer diameter of the rest of the portion of the glass plug projecting into the filling neck.

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

removing the external portion after fusing of the glass plug and of the filling neck.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to Claim 9, further comprising:

inserting the glass closing plug below the filling level of the hollow body.

Claim 17 (New): A fillable hollow glass body provided with a substantially cylindrical glass filling neck configured to be closed by a melting process once the hollow body has been filled, the glass body comprising:

a glass closing plug configured to be inserted into the filling neck and to drive out at least part of the air volume located above a filling level of the glass body,

wherein the glass plug includes a radially projecting flange provided at a substantially middle portion in a longitudinal direction thereof, whose outer diameter corresponds to the outer diameter of the filling neck, the flange including a circumferentially extending centering bevel on the side facing the filling neck

wherein an area of the glass plug projecting into the filling neck has an outer diameter which corresponds essentially to the inner diameter of the filling neck,

wherein the glass plug includes an external portion that extends in the longitudinal direction above the flange and has an outer diameter which corresponds essentially to the outer diameter of the filling neck, and

wherein the substantially middle portion of the glass plug is configured to be fused with a top end of the filling neck at the circumference thereof.

Claim 18 (New): The glass body according to claim 17, wherein the external portion of the glass plug is configured to be removed after fusing the glass plug with the filling neck.

Claim 19 (New): A kit including a hollow glass body provided with a substantially cylindrical glass filling neck configured to be closed by a melting process once the hollow body has filled, the glass body comprising:

a glass closing plug configured to be inserted into the filling neck and to drive out at least part of the air volume located above the filling level of the glass body,

wherein the glass plug includes a radially projecting flange provided at a substantially middle portion in a longitudinal direction thereof, whose outer diameter corresponds to the outer diameter of the filling neck, the flange including a circumferentially extending centering bevel on the side facing the filling neck,

wherein an area of the glass plug projecting into the filling neck has an outer diameter which corresponds essentially to the inner diameter of the filling neck,

wherein the glass plug includes an external portion that extends in the longitudinal direction above the flange and has an outer diameter which corresponds essentially to the outer diameter of the filling neck, and

wherein the substantially middle portion of the glass plug is configured to be fused with a top end of the filling neck at the circumference thereof.

Claim 20 (New): The kit according to claim 19, wherein the external portion of the glass plug is configured to be removed after fusing the glass plug with the filling neck.